ERS-1 RADAR INTERFEROMETRY OVER AN ICE STREAM IN NORTHEAST GREENLAND

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Interferometric fringes observed over an ice stream are expressions of surface relief as well as motion of the ice stream. Here, we describe a procedure for separation of the surface relief from ice stream motion. Assuming that the velocity is constant over the interval of observation, the fringes due to motion can be removed by differencing repeat pass interferograms formed from three separate radar observations of the ice stream. The resultant topography-only interferogram can then be scaled and subtracted from one of the mixed motion/topography interferograms to obtain motion only fringe. The observed line of sight motion are due to the vertical and horizontal components of of the flow field over the surface relief. The contribution of these components to the interferometrically observed motion are dependent on the look direction, the surface relief and direction of flow relative to the look direction, The observed motion can be decomposed into a the two components if we have an estimate of the direction of flow because the look direction is known and surface relief can be derived interferometrically. We illustrate the procedure herein with a time-series of ERS-1 images over an ice stream in northeast Greenland.